

YOUNG GROWER ALLIANCE



*The
Future
Faces
in
Farming*



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A new generation of specialty crop growers is building coalitions to develop innovative approaches for meeting future growing and marketing challenges. Participate as much or as little as you want, but get to know the people around you!

A place to learn...

YGA offers year-round educational opportunities to its members. Educational field trips to universities, grower operations, and research facilities give direct accessibility to experts and professionals eager to share their knowledge and experiences. Exposure to new practices and technologies encourages innovation among this next generation of growers.

A place to lead...

YGA is the inside network for young growers. Young growers are given opportunities to meet with community and agriculture leaders, serve on committees, and take on leadership roles within organizations. YGA has given a voice to the youth in horticulture, and many people are eagerly to hear what we have to say.

A place to connect...

YGA is a social network bringing together the different young people who are pursuing the unique lifestyles involved with farming and horticulture. Whether sharing business ideas or swapping farmer stories there is always someone to connect with at a YGA event.

The Young Grower Alliance (YGA) is a coalition, started in 2005, for those at the start of their horticulture careers looking to connect with others working in a similar profession and living a similar lifestyle. Activities include field trips, farm tours, workshops, luncheons with guest speakers, and much more—limited only by our own creativity! The coalition currently includes 300 growers from the Mid-Atlantic region and beyond. New members are always welcome!

**To learn more about YGA , please visit:
<http://extension.psu.edu/plants/tree-fruit/yga>**

Scholarship Opportunity for Young Growers Training for a Career in Horticulture

To invest in the future of the horticultural industry, the Young Grower Alliance committee of the State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania established a scholarship in memory of Scott Brown, who served as a model for young growers returning to the family farm. For more information, please contact Maureen Irvin, Executive Secretary, at (717) 677-4184 or shap@embarqmail.com.



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YGA IS ON THE MOVE...



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Our Mission: to encourage, develop, support and equip the next generation of specialty crop growers

Meet Our Team Leaders

Chairperson — Ben Lerew

Vice Chair — Andrew Schwalm

Treasurer — Katie Epstein

SHAP Partnership & SHAP Scholarship

Liaison to SHAP — Andrew Schwalm

Liaison to YGA of Virginia — Philip Glaize

Liaison to Maryland Horticulture Association — Ben Butler

Liaison to US Apple — Mark Boyer

Liaisons to IFTA — Nathan Milburn, Jen Baugher

Horticulture Student Support (SHAP Scholarship) — Sidney

Kuhn, Wayne Hollabaugh, Jen Baugher, Bruce Hollabaugh

Workshops & Speaking Engagements — Ryan Callihan, Sarah

Zost, Katie Epstein, Hallie Van Horn, Zoe Milburn, Adam

Dellinger

Tours — Justin Weaver, Corey McCleaf, Tyler Butler, Mark Boyer,

Andrew Schwalm, Mike Flinchbaugh

Service Work & Leadership Development — Ben Keim, Maggie

Travis, Julie Bolyard, Tyler Fetters, Philip Glaize, Mark Boyer,

Steven Johnston

Farm Show Apple Sales to Support Research and Extension —

Matt Strite, Ben Lerew, Katie Epstein, Clair Kauffman, Greg

Wenk, Kyle Benner

Plan to Get Involved in these Initiatives

Bringing in the Next Generation—YGA sponsors a workshop on the Monday prior to the Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention; 2017 - Grafting Fruit Trees

Orchard, Farm Market, Research Station Tours—USDA Kearneysville, Orr's Orchard (Spring); New Morning Farm (Fall)

National/International Tours—New York with IFTA (July, 2016)

Spotlight on Innovation—Research and grower innovations demonstrated during tours and Penn State Fruit Research and Extension Center Field Day

Student Recruitment—YGA, along with the SHAP endowment committee, sponsors a horticulture scholarship; coordinates youth orchard work exchange opportunities

Leadership—YGA strives to increase participation in industry associations and state and local government, including involvement with US Apple and Capital Day visits with legislators

Service—Members help at the PA Farm Show; give career day presentations; support local gleaner networks; assist an underserved ag community in Nicaragua; support community diversity initiatives

Professional Development—Members contact donors to defray non-credit educational expenses and assist the International Fruit Tree Association with a scholarship program for young growers

To volunteer to be one of our YGA team leaders or to help plan an event, please contact Mike Basedow at 334-6271 or mxb1072@psu.edu

Leadership Opportunities for Young Growers

To invest in the future of the fruit industry, the Young Grower Alliance Leadership Development Team links young horticulture leaders to leadership roles in industry organizations, academic planning sessions, and local government.

Who to Contact in Penn State Extension

Tree Fruit—Tara Baugher, tab36@psu.edu; Start Farming—Marley Skinner, mvs6271@psu.edu;

Ag Entrepreneurship & Marketing—Carla Snyder, cus24@psu.edu

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